of time, accommodation, equipment or quality, rose from 1,012 to 1,223 and the strength in them from 32,277 to 41,024. Recognised schools for girls rose in number from 352 to 366 and in strength from 1,13,997 to 1,15,722. Of the total number of girls under instruction, 69,078 were attending boys' schools.

27. English Education.—There were 26 women students in His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Boys against 18 in 1093 and 8 in 1092, the total number of girls attending colleges rising from 86 to 130 during 1094. Recognised English schools rose in number from 94 to 102. 7 lower grade English schools were newly recognised. Form IV was newly opened in four schools, Form V in six schools and Form VI in one school. A departmental lower grade English school for girls was opened at Mavelikara. The number of girls under instruction in recognised English schools rose from 3,348 to 3,976. It is gratifying to note that English school education made considerable progress during the year, as many as 37 schools being newly started under private agency and liberal contributions being made by the people towards the provision of additional accommodation and equipment for existing schools. Since the close of 1094, the Higher Grade English School at Trivandrum has been removed to the buildings at Vanchiyur, erected for the purpose at a cost of four and odd lakhs so far. The boy scouts movement was introduced in the Model School, Trivandrum. Sanction has been accorded to the admission, as private candidates, of pupils who have been twice presented for the English School Leaving Certificate Examination from a recognised school.

28. Vernacular Education.—The immediate control of higher grade vernacular schools was transferred from the Inspectors to the Assistant Inspectors, in view to secure better supervision for them. The scheme for the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination has been revised, substituting a written examination at the end of the course in Class VII. A vocational side to education has been provided in a few higher grade vernacular schools as an experimental measure. A committee, composed of officials and non-officials, has been appointed to go into the question of the course of studies in vernacular schools for boys, and to formulate practical proposals regarding the revision of the curriculam, so as to suit modern conditions and to secure the maximum material benefit to the pupils attending those schools. The minimum pay of vernacular school teachers was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 per mensem with effect from the beginning of 1095, at an additional cost of more than a lakh per annum. As a result of the special efforts put forth by the Department of the spread of literacy in the Devicolam taluk, which is the most backward portion of the State in point of education, the percentage of its population of school-going age attending recognised schools rose from 1·4 in 1093 to 6·9 in 1094. From a statement furnished by the Director showing the progress of literacy in the State as guaged by the number of pupils attending Classes I to IV of vernacular schools during the last ten years, it is seen that the average duration of school life has increased from 2·9 years to 3·3 years in a course extending over four years, and that 82 per cent of the pupils now complete their course in those classes.

29. Class Education.—There was no complaint on the score of the non-admission of pupils belonging to the depressed classes in public schools. There was a noticeable increase in the number of Mahomedan pupils in English schools. A private girls' school for Mahomedans was opened at Kayankulam. With a view to popularise education among Mahomedans, additional facilities were provided for the teaching of the Koran and Arabic ; a Mahomedan graduate Inspector of schools was appointed ; a scheme of special scholarships was sanctioned for the benefit of Mahomedan pupils attending colleges, English schools and higher grade vernacular schools; free instruction was arranged to be imparted to Mahomedan girls in all schools, special schools being also arranged to be opened for them wherever necessary; and an additional hour for noonday interval was allowed on Fridays. Steps have been taken to remove the Kumnattur Lower Grade English School for Malayala Brahmins to Kulakkada and to provide satisfactory accommodation for it. An annual grant has been sanctioned to the boarding house attached to the Kumaranallur Special Higher Grade Vernacular School for Malayala Brahmins. The concession of half fees has been extended to the pupils of the Kaniyar, Kakkala, Vilakkithala Nair and Araya communities.

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